

**REMARKS**

**Status of Claims:**

Claims 1, 10, 15 and 21 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added or canceled.

This amendment and reply amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 2 and 4-21 remain pending in this application.

**Request for Entry of After-final Amendment and Reply:**

It is respectfully requested that this after-final Amendment and Reply be considered and entered, since it merely makes minor amendments to certain claims to address indefiniteness or objections to those claims, without materially affecting the scope of the presently pending claims, thereby putting this application in better form for appeal.

**Comment Concerning Amendments to Drawings in Previous Response:**

On page 10 of the previously-filed response, it incorrectly noted that the clients “C1” in Figure 1 were amended with a “10” label, when in fact it should have noted that the clients “C1” in Figure 1 were amended with a “20” label. Applicants’ representative regrets this error, whereby the PTO correctly noted the error made on page 10 of the previously-filed response.

**Claim Objections:**

In the Office Action, claims 1, 15 and 21 were objected to because of minor informalities noted on page 6 of the Office Action. Based on the amendments made to those claims in this amendment and reply, these objections have been overcome.

**Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1<sup>st</sup> Paragraph:**

In the Office Action, claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1<sup>st</sup> Paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, for the reasons set forth on page 7 of the Office Action. From the specification, it is clear that the “first

generation root key" corresponds to the root key A0 as shown in Figure 4 of the drawings (that drawing also shows the "Gold" nod set and the "Silver" node set only the root key A0 as a common ancestor).

**Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph:**

See comments provided in Appellants' Brief filed concurrently herewith.

**Claim Rejections – Prior Art:**

See comments provided in Appellants' Brief filed concurrently herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

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